

tribution (by direct allocation, subcontract, or any other means) of orders of the Government for commodities and services on the procurement list among qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped.

**(d) Rules and regulations; blind-made products, priority**

(1) The Committee may make rules and regulations regarding (A) specifications for commodities and services on the procurement list, (B) the time of their delivery, and (C) such other matters as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 46 to 48c of this title.

(2) The Committee shall prescribe regulations providing that—

(A) in the purchase by the Government of commodities produced and offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped, priority shall be accorded to commodities produced and offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind, and

(B) in the purchase by the Government of services offered by nonprofit agencies for the blind or such agencies for other severely handicapped, priority shall, until the end of the calendar year ending December 31, 1976, be accorded to services offered for sale by qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind.

**(e) Problems and production methods; study and evaluation**

The Committee shall make a continuing study and evaluation of its activities under sections 46 to 48c of this title for the purpose of assuring effective and efficient administration of sections 46 to 48c of this title. The Committee may study (on its own or in cooperation with other public or nonprofit private agencies) (1) problems related to the employment of the blind and of other severely handicapped individuals, and (2) the development and adaptation of production methods which would enable a greater utilization of the blind and other severely handicapped individuals.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, § 2, 52 Stat. 1196; Pub. L. 92-28, § 1, June 23, 1971, 85 Stat. 79.)

AMENDMENTS

1971—Pub. L. 92-28, in substituting subsecs. (a) to (e) for former paragraph, among other changes: extended provisions to cover commodities and services of agencies for the blind and other severely handicapped, previously limited to brooms and mops and other suitable commodities manufactured by agencies for the blind; inserted provisions incorporated in subsecs. (a) and (e); incorporated in subsec. (b) provisions for determination of fair market price and price revisions; incorporated in subsec. (c) provisions for designation of a central nonprofit agency, providing for distribution by direct allocation, subcontract, or any other means; incorporated existing provisions in subsec. (d)(1), adding par. (2) thereof; and struck out provision that no change in prices shall become effective prior to expiration of fifteen days from date on which such change is made by the Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-28 effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as a note under section 46 of this title.

**§ 48. Procurement requirements for the Government; nonapplication to prison-made products**

If any entity of the Government intends to procure any commodity or service on the procurement list, that entity shall, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Committee, procure such commodity or service, at the price established by the Committee, from a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or such an agency for other severely handicapped if the commodity or service is available within the period required by that Government entity; except that this section shall not apply with respect to the procurement of any commodity which is available for procurement from an industry established under chapter 307 of title 18, and which, under section 4124 of such title 18, is required to be procured from such industry.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, § 3, 52 Stat. 1196; Pub. L. 92-28, § 1, June 23, 1971, 85 Stat. 80.)

AMENDMENTS

1971—Pub. L. 92-28 extended provisions to cover any commodity or service on the procurement list for former provision for brooms and mops and other suitable commodities, excepted section from application to prison-made products, and deleted provision for nonapplicability of sections 46 to 58 of this title to cases where brooms and mops were available for procurement from and Federal department or agency and procurement therefrom was required under provisions of any law in effect on June 25, 1938, or to cases where brooms and mops were procured outside continental United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-28 effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as a note under section 46 of this title.

**§ 48a. Audit**

The Comptroller General of the United States, or any of his duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the purpose of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers, and other records of the Committee and of each agency designated by the Committee under section 47(c) of this title. This section shall also apply to any qualified nonprofit agency for the blind and any such agency for other severely handicapped which have sold commodities or services under sections 46 to 48c of this title but only with respect to the books, documents, papers, and other records of such agency which relate to its activities in a fiscal year in which a sale was made under sections 46 to 48c of this title.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 697, § 4, as added Pub. L. 92-28, § 1, June 23, 1971, 85 Stat. 81.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Aug. 1, 1971, see section 2 of Pub. L. 92-28, set out as an Effective Date of 1971 Amendment note under section 46 of this title.

**§ 48b. Definitions**

For purposes of sections 46 to 48c of this title—

(1) The term “blind” refers to an individual or class of individuals whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with cor-